

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of interacting with a signaling tag comprising:
receiving information regarding a signaling tag at a terminal at least partially over
an air interface;
5 determining whether the terminal is actively operating an application; and if the
terminal is actively operating an application,
performing a predefined action based upon the application and a state of the
application.
- 10 2. A method according to Claim 1, wherein performing a predefined action
comprises reading data from the signaling tag into an actively operating application
when:
the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is
capable of at least transmitting data to the terminal;
15 the terminal is actively operating an application; and
the application is in a state of receiving data.
- 20 3. A method according to Claim 1, wherein performing a predefined action
comprises reading data from the signaling tag into the terminal when the information
regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is capable of at least
transmitting data to the terminal and one of:
the terminal is not actively operating an application; and
the terminal is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of
receiving data.
25
4. A method according to Claim 1, wherein performing a predefined action
comprises writing data to the signaling tag when:
the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is
capable of at least receiving data;
30 the terminal is actively operating an application; and
the application is in a state of presenting data.

5. A method according to Claim 1, wherein performing a predefined action comprises reading data from the signaling tag into the terminal when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is
5 capable of at least transmitting data and one of:
the terminal is not actively operating an application; and
the terminal is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of one
of receiving data and presenting data.

10 6. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the signaling tag comprises a transceiver, wherein performing a predefined action comprises reading data from a device associated with the transceiver into an actively operating application when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the transceiver is
capable of at least transmitting data;
15 the terminal is actively operating an application; and
the application is in a state of receiving data, and wherein reading data from the
device comprises reading data from the device in a manner independent of the
transceiver.

20 7. A method according to Claim 6 further comprising:
receiving at least one connection parameter from the device via the transceiver,
wherein reading data from the device comprises reading data from the device based upon
the at least one connection parameter and in a manner independent of the transceiver.

25 8. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the signaling tag comprises a transceiver, wherein performing a predefined action comprises writing data to a device associated with the transceiver when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the transceiver is
capable of at least receiving data;
30 the terminal is actively operating an application; and

the application is in a state of presenting data, and wherein writing data to the device comprises writing data to the device in a manner independent of the transceiver.

9. A method according to Claim 8 further comprising:
5 receiving at least one connection parameter from the device via the transceiver, wherein writing data to the device comprises writing data to the device based upon the at least one connection parameter and in a manner independent of the transceiver.

10. A method according to Claim 1, wherein the signaling tag comprises a
10 transceiver, wherein performing a predefined action comprises initiating communication between the terminal and a device associated with the transceiver when the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the transceiver is capable of at least transmitting data and one of:

the terminal is not actively operating an application; and
15 the terminal is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of one of receiving data and presenting data,
and wherein initiating communication comprises initiating communication between the terminal and the device in a manner independent of the transceiver.

20 11. A method according to Claim 1 further comprising:
selecting a signaling tag before receiving information regarding the signaling tag, wherein the signaling tag comprises a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) transponder tag.

25 12. A method according to Claim 11 further comprising:
sending an interrogation signal to the RFID transponder tag, wherein receiving information regarding a signaling tag comprises receiving a tag type from the RFID transponder tag in response to the interrogation signal.

30 13. A method according to Claim 11 further comprising:

sending at least one interrogation signal to the RFID transponder tag, wherein each interrogation signal is associated with a different tag type;

receiving a response from the RFID transponder tag to one of the at least one interrogation signal that triggers the response; and

5 identifying a tag type based upon the interrogation signal that triggers the response, wherein receiving information regarding a signaling tag comprises receiving the identified tag type.

14. A method according to Claim 11, wherein selecting a signaling tag
10 comprises passing the terminal within a predefined distance of a signaling tag.

15. A terminal for interacting with a signaling tag comprising:
a controller capable of actively operating an application, wherein the controller is capable of receiving information regarding a signaling tag at least partially over an air
15 interface, wherein the controller is also capable of determining whether the terminal is actively operating an application, and if the controller is actively operating an application, performing a predefined action based upon the application and a state of the application.

16. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the controller is capable of
20 performing a predefined action by reading data from the signaling tag into an actively operating application when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is capable of at least transmitting data to the terminal;

the controller is actively operating an application; and

25 the application is in a state of receiving data.

17. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the controller is capable of performing a predefined action by reading data from the signaling tag into the terminal when the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is
30 capable of at least transmitting data to the terminal and one of:

the controller is not actively operating an application; and

the controller is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of receiving data.

18. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the controller is capable of performing a predefined action by writing data to the signaling tag when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is capable of at least receiving data;

the controller is actively operating an application; and

the application is in a state of presenting data.

10

19. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the controller is capable of performing a predefined action by reading data from the signaling tag into the terminal when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is capable of at least transmitting data and one of:

the controller is not actively operating an application; and

the controller is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of one of receiving data and presenting data.

20. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the signaling tag comprises a transceiver, wherein the controller is capable of performing a predefined action by reading data from a device associated with the transceiver into an actively operating application when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the transceiver is capable of at least transmitting data;

the controller is actively operating an application; and

the application is in a state of receiving data, and wherein the controller is capable of reading data from the device in a manner independent of the transceiver.

21. A terminal according to Claim 20, wherein the controller is capable of receiving at least one connection parameter from the device via the transceiver, and

wherein the controller is capable of reading data from the device based upon the at least one connection parameter and in a manner independent of the transceiver.

22. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the signaling tag comprises a transceiver, wherein the controller is capable of performing a predefined action by writing data to a device associated with the transceiver when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the transceiver is capable of at least receiving data;

the controller is actively operating an application; and

the application is in a state of presenting data, and wherein the controller is capable of writing data to the device in a manner independent of the transceiver.

23. A terminal according to Claim 22, wherein the controller is capable of receiving at least one connection parameter from the device via the transceiver, and wherein the controller is capable of writing data to the device based upon the at least one connection parameter and in a manner independent of the transceiver.

24. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the signaling tag comprises a transceiver, wherein the controller is capable of performing a predefined action by initiating communication a device associated with the transceiver when the information regarding the transceiver indicates that the transceiver is capable of at least transmitting data and one of:

the controller is not actively operating an application; and

the controller is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of one of receiving data and presenting data,

and wherein the controller is capable of initiating communication with the device in a manner independent of the transceiver.

25. A terminal according to Claim 15, wherein the controller is further capable of selecting a signaling tag before receiving information regarding the signaling tag,

wherein the signaling tag comprises a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) transponder tag.

26. A terminal according to Claim 25, wherein the controller is further capable
5 of sending an interrogation signal to the RFID transponder tag, wherein the controller is
capable of receiving information regarding a signaling tag comprising a tag type from the
RFID transponder tag in response to the interrogation signal.

27. A terminal according to Claim 25, wherein the controller is capable of
10 sending at least one interrogation signal to the RFID transponder tag, wherein each
interrogation signal is associated with a different tag type, wherein the controller is
capable of receiving a response from the RFID transponder tag to one of the at least one
interrogation signal that triggers the response, and wherein the controller is also capable
of identifying a tag type based upon the interrogation signal that triggers the response,
15 wherein the information regarding a signaling tag comprises the identified tag type.

28. A terminal according to Claim 25 further comprising:
a transceiver coupled to the controller, wherein the controller is capable of
selecting a signaling tag by the transceiver being passed within a predefined distance of a
20 signaling tag.

29. A computer program product for interacting with a signaling tag, the
computer program product comprising a computer-readable storage medium having
computer-readable program code portions stored therein, the computer-readable program
25 code portions comprising:

a first executable portion receiving information regarding a signaling tag at a
terminal at least partially over an air interface;

a second executable portion for determining whether the terminal is actively
operating an application; and if the terminal is actively operating an application,

30 a third executable portion for performing a predefined action based upon the
application and a state of the application.

30. A computer program product according to Claim 29, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform a predefined action by reading data from the signaling tag into an actively operating application when:

- 5 the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is capable of at least transmitting data to the terminal;
- the terminal is actively operating an application; and
- the application is in a state of receiving data.

10 31. A computer program product according to Claim 29, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform a predefined action by reading data from the signaling tag into the terminal when the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is capable of at least transmitting data to the terminal and one of:

- the terminal is not actively operating an application; and
- 15 the terminal is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of receiving data.

32. A computer program product according to Claim 29, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform a predefined action by writing data to the signaling tag when:

- 20 the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is capable of at least receiving data;
- the terminal is actively operating an application; and
- the application is in a state of presenting data.

25 33. A computer program product according to Claim 32, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform a predefined action by reading data from the signaling tag into the terminal when:

- the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the signaling tag is
- 30 capable of at least transmitting data and one of:
- the terminal is not actively operating an application; and

the terminal is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of one of receiving data and presenting data.

34. A computer program product according to Claim 29, wherein the signaling
5 tag comprises a transceiver, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform a predefined action by reading data from a device associated with the transceiver into an actively operating application when:

the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the transceiver is
capable of at least transmitting data;

10 the terminal is actively operating an application; and

the application is in a state of receiving data, and wherein the third executable
portion is adapted to read data from the device in a manner independent of the
transceiver.

15 35. A computer program product according to Claim 34 further comprising:
a fourth executable portion for receiving at least one connection parameter from
the device via the transceiver, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform
a predefined action by reading data from the device based upon the at least one
connection parameter and in a manner independent of the transceiver.

20

36. A computer program product according to Claim 29, wherein the signaling
tag comprises a transceiver, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform a
predefined action by writing data to a device associated with the transceiver when:

25 the information regarding the signaling tag indicates that the transceiver is
capable of at least receiving data;

the terminal is actively operating an application; and

the application is in a state of presenting data, and wherein the third executable
portion is adapted to write data to the device in a manner independent of the transceiver.

30 37. A computer program product according to Claim 36 further comprising:

a fourth executable portion for receiving at least one connection parameter from the device via the transceiver, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform a predefined action by writing data to the device based upon the at least one connection parameter and in a manner independent of the transceiver.

5

38. A computer program product according to Claim 29, wherein the signaling tag comprises a transceiver, wherein the third executable portion is adapted to perform a predefined action by initiating communication between the terminal and the device associated with the transceiver when the information regarding the signaling tag indicates
10 that the transceiver is capable of at least transmitting data and one of:

the terminal is not actively operating an application; and

the terminal is actively operating an application in a state other than a state of one of receiving data and presenting data,

and wherein the third executable portion is adapted to initiate communication
15 between the terminal and the device in a manner independent of the transceiver.

39. A computer program product according to Claim 29 further comprising:
a fourth executable portion for selecting a signaling tag before the first executable
portion receives information regarding the signaling tag, wherein the signaling tag
20 comprises a Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) transponder tag.

40. A computer program product according to Claim 39 further comprising:
a fifth executable portion for sending an interrogation signal to the RFID
transponder tag, wherein the first executable portion is adapted to receive information
25 regarding a signaling tag comprising a tag type from the RFID transponder tag in
response to the interrogation signal.

41. A computer program product according to Claim 39 further comprising:
a fifth executable portion for sending at least one interrogation signal to the RFID
30 transponder tag, wherein each interrogation signal is associated with a different tag type;

a sixth executable portion for receiving a response from the RFID transponder tag to one of the at least one interrogation signal that triggers the response; and

a seventh executable portion for identifying a tag type based upon the interrogation signal that triggers the response, wherein the first executable portion is
5 adapted to receive information regarding a signaling tag comprising the identified tag type.

10